



City of Morro Bay

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December 10, 2008

California Air Resources Board
Attn: Mary Nichols, Chair
1001 I Street
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: City of Morro Bay Comments of Air Resources Board Proposed Scoping Plan

Dear Chair Nichols:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the California Air Resources Board's proposed Scoping Plan. The League of California Cities submitted comments on the proposed Scoping Plan on November 14 and the City concurs with concerns expressed, most notably the concern about funding sources for local actions to achieve the green house gas (GHG) reductions.

The City of Morro Bay is a small rural community with a population of 10,300. Our community has been afflicted with declining revenues which continue to worsen due to the current economic conditions as well as repeated State take aways, while at the same time expenditures continue to rise making it difficult to be able to effectively develop and implement GHG programs to achieve the proposed targets without additional funding sources to aid in the City's efforts.

While the City is generally supportive in principle of a number of the programs and policies outlined in the Scoping Plan, it is crucial that State policymakers take into account the means that will be needed to achieve the goals. Every day we struggle to find a balance between providing basic public services and the increasing demands for unfunded State mandates. We strongly believe that a source of funding needs to be identified and secured that flows directly to communities like ours to implement these important regulations.

Clearly one of the most effective means for reducing GHG emissions is through mass transit programs. We find it ironic that the Governor's current proposal to cut State Transit Assistance (STA) in FY 2008/2009 and eliminate the STA program altogether in FY 2009/2011. The Governor's proposed reduction in STA this year and the elimination of STA beginning next year would result in reductions to transit service levels at a time when transit ridership has experienced huge gains over the last year as Californians have begun changing their travel behavior by getting out of their single occupant vehicles and utilizing alternative means of transportation thereby lowering fuel consumption and the number of vehicle miles traveled.

FINANCE
595 Harbor Street
HARBOR DEPARTMENT
1275 Embarcadero Road

ADMINISTRATION
595 Harbor Street
CITY ATTORNEY
955 Shasta Avenue

FIRE DEPARTMENT
715 Harbor Street
POLICE DEPARTMENT
850 Morro Bay Boulevard

PUBLIC SERVICES
955 Shasta Street
RECREATION AND PARKS
1001 Kennedy Way

Additionally, in order to effect the desired change, incentives must be provided to the development community and local agencies in order to encourage more development in areas where the reductions in GHG emissions will be the greatest. The City encourages CARB to consider what can be done to provide incentives for the type of planning and decision-making that will be required to reduce GHG emissions. The City recognizes that incentives may be beyond the scope of the CARB's direct authority; however, the board has an important voice within state government. The City requests that any targeted fees maximize economic benefits and minimize economic harm. Local governments enact fees to cover costs associated with operating local programs, with an understanding of the impact that fee may have on the community. We must not implement fees without looking at the cost to communities and local businesses that allow our communities to thrive. The City of Morro Bay strongly encourages the CARB to consider these limitations as it moves forward with the Scoping Plan.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Scoping Plan. The City looks forward to working with the CARB in developing programs that would reduce GHG in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Ambo", written in a cursive style.

Bruce Ambo
Public Services Director

cc: Mayor and City Council
Andrea Lueker, City Manager
Robert Schultz, City Attorney